ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION & ENQUIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Eccleſiaſtical:

EXHIBITED

To the Miniſters, Church-wardens, and Side-men of every Pariſh within the

DIOCESE of *LINCOLNE.*

In the Primary EPISCOPAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

BENJAMIN

By Divine Permiſsion

Lord Biſhop of *LINCOLNE.*

LONDON,

Printed for *T. Garthwait*, at the Kings-Head in S. *Pauls* Church-yard, M. DC. LXIII

The Tenour of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens, and Side-men, of every Parish,

YOu shall Swear to enquire with your best diligence, and to Present every Person that now is, or of late was, inhabiting within your Parish, that hath done any Offence against any of his Majesties Ecclesiastical Laws. And this you shall do, as in the sight of God, uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or Fear of Displeasure.

So help you God.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

ARTICLES OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Church-wardens and Sidemen, in ſome more ſpecial matters to direct their Inquiry and Preſentments.

Titul. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments, and Furniture thereunto belonging.

IS your Pariſh Church or Chappel kept in good and ſufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile or Slate; the Windows well Glazed, the Flors well Paved, the Seats well faſtned, and conveniently placed; and all things ſo decently ordered, as becometh the houſe of God?

II. HATH the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any

of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto been imbezelled, sold or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard therein.

III. IS there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen-Cloath, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen, to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of silver, and one or more Flagons of silver, or pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer; both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration in the Church; provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of your Parish?

VI. HAVE you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Sirnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish; together with the Names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the day, month, and year of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25 of March, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licences of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accounts: together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforementioned Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

Add the 13. of the Bp of Chester.

TIT.

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales; and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since, by whom, and to whose use and benefit?

II. IS the house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or, have any of the said Houses, or Out-houses, been defaced or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarge house? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. HAVE you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom? as you know or have heard?

IV. HAVE any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable-land into Pasture? by whom hath the same been made? and how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

Tit.

Tit. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

I. IS your Miniſter a Prieſt or Deacon, Epiſcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of England?

II. IS he defamed, or ſuſpected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

III. HATH he been legally Inſtituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two months after his Induction, publickly, in the Church, upon ſome Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, eſtabliſhed by Authority, and there publickly declare his aſſent thereunto?

IV. HATH he any other Eccleſiaſtical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he conſtantly reſident upon his Benefice among you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been abſent from it without urgent neceſſitie?

V. HATH your Miniſter a Curate to aſſiſt him? Is the ſaid Curate in holy Orders? an able and diſcreet perſon, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? Is he allowed by the Biſhop to ſerve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he ſerve in any other Church beſide? and what yearly ſtipend doth your Miniſter allow him?

VI. DOTH your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Adminiſtration of the holy Sacraments, celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Viſitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination againſt impenitent Sinners, uſe the form and words preſcribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, without any addition, omiſſion, or alteration of the ſame? And doth he uſe all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the the ſaid Book?

VII. DOTH your Miniſter at the Reading or Celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with ſuch other Scholaſtical Habit as is ſuitable to his Degree?

VIII. DOTH he obſerve the Holy-days and Faſting-days, as alſo the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as

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in the Common-Prayer-Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons, is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Minister been licensed to preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities? If so, doth he then constantly (unless in case of Sickness, necessarie absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being Licensed be hindred by Sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

X. DOTH your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden dutie in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. DOTH he neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers? or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

XII. DOTH he in his Sermons preach sound Doctrine tending to the edification of the people in the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ, and obedience to Gods holy Commandments? or hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. HATH he presumed to Marrie any persons in private houses? or such as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents? or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? or at any other hours then between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do?

XIV. DOTH any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he, before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-Prayer?

is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. HATH your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings, or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. IS your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable, and exemplarie life? Doth he familiarlie converse with ungodlie, vitious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a profane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehementlie suspected of Incontinencie with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectarie, that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church? or that makes profession of any other Religion then what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. IS there any person in your Parish that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish? or common Swearers,

ers, or blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be ra-
lers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, and discord
amongst their neighbours?

III. DO any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holy-days, follow
their bodily or ordinary labour? or permit their servants so to do? are
any shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Victuallers, Inn-keepers,
or other Victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to
tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

IV. DOTH every person inhabiting, and sojourning within your
Parish, duely resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday
and Holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there a-
bide quietly, with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time
of Common-Prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used? and
are there any among you that come onely to the Preaching, and not to
the Common-Prayers of the Church?

V. DOTH every person reverently uncover his head, and so con-
tinue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? Do they all re-
verently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel
are read, making due reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is
mentioned?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-
children to be baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of ur-
gent danger, in which case the child may be baptized at home by a
lawful Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or
do they send them to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other
form then is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer
time then the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more a-
ged persons, in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. DOTH every Householder in your Parish cause their children
and servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof
unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the
Church upon Sundays and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-
Prayer is appointed: that when they are well Instructed in the same,
they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. IS there any person in your Parish who, being 16 years of
age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament
of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter
is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the
same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for
it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad: Or are there any Strangers,
not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair
to yours for it?

IX. HAVE you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. ARE there any living in your Parish who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated, or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

XI. ARE there any married-women in your Parish who, after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

XII. ARE there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their duty for Easter-Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture, and Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XIII. DO any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved? Or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they bien bestowed?

XIV. DO you know, or have you heard, of any Patron, or other person in your Parish, having the presentation or gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for money, or pension, or lease, reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simonical compon whatsoever?

XV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews bien erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

Tit. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

I. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient as able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duely paid unto him? or doth withholdeth the same from him?

II. DOTH he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due times? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby be admonished to commend the dying person to the grace and mercy of God?

Tit. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physitians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Almes-house, or Free-School, founded in your Parish? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governours or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants

grants and ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. DOTH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancellor? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel; and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. DOTH any man in your Parish practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or any ill woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinary?

B. LINCOLN.

MEmorandum, That according to an Order of the Lords of his Majesties Privy Council, inquiry be made of the Ministers and Church-wardens, what Moneys have been collected in their several Parishes for the promoting of the Fishery of this nation; to whom paid, what remains unpaid, and in whose hands? and whether any Briefs for that purpose have been distributed among you?